

Amendments to the Drawings

Accompanying this Amendment and Reply is a Submission of Formal Drawings. In the Drawings, reference numeral 18 in FIG. 3 has been changed to reference numeral 81 to be consistent with the amendment to the specification above. Reference numeral 18 is already used in the specification and drawings for another feature.

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-3 and 5-13 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 3, and 5 being the independent claims. Claim 4 has been canceled without disclaimer of or prejudice to the subject matter recited therein. New claims 8-13 have been added. The amendments to the claims are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Examiner Interview

Applicant and Applicant's representative thank Examiner Heitbrink for the courtesy extended in the interview conducted May 9, 2006. During the interview, the amendments to claims 1, 3, and 5 above were discussed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,074,191 to Gellert et al. Claim 4 has been cancelled, thereby rendering its rejection moot. In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that

Gellert et al. disclose an injection molding apparatus having two manifolds 18 and 84 where a mold cavity receives a material from each of said

manifolds via a nozzle having a plurality of channels (having a predetermined volume) ending in a gate which is closed by an injection piston mechanism.

Office Action, page 2. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 5 have been amended to clarify the injection piston recited therein. In particular, independent claims 1 and 5 have been amended to recite that the injection piston is “movable from a retracted position enabling communication between said first outlet of said first manifold channel to an extended position blocking said first outlet of said first manifold channel.” Gellert et al. do not disclose such an injection piston. Gellert et al. instead disclose a valve pin to control the flow of melt from the nozzle channels to the mold cavity, however, the valve pin does not control flow from the first manifold melt channel into the first nozzle channel, as recited in claims 1 and 5. Accordingly, Gellert et al. do not disclose each and every element of claims 1 and 5, and therefore do not anticipate claims 1 and 5. Claims 2 and 6-9 depend from and add features to claim 1 or claim 5, and therefore are not anticipated by Gellert et al. for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 5.

Independent claim 3 recites a method of forming a molded product from at least two different materials. Independent claim 3 recites the steps of “moving an injection piston into a position to block the second material from entering the melt chamber while the second material is blocked from entering the mold cavity” and “opening communication between the second melt channel and the mold cavity and further extending the injection piston so as to inject said second material from said melt chamber into said mold cavity.” Gellert et al. do not disclose such a process, whereby an injection piston is used to allow or block flow into a melt chamber, and then injecting material from the melt chamber into the mold cavity.

Accordingly, Gellert et al. do not disclose each and every step of claim 3, and therefore do not anticipate claim 3.

For the reasons stated above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections be withdrawn.

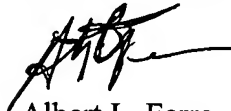
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MEDLER FERRO PLLC



Albert L. Ferro
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 44,679

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8607 Rockdale Lane
Springfield, VA 22153
(410) 788-7684